CALPEEK

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FIXING CALIF.'S 2000 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: SB 28

Editor's note: The attempt to bring the Calif.'s open primary law into compliance with DNC & RNC rules on presidential primaries & delegate selection appears to be on track toward a solution that will satisfy all parties. Here's our brief update...

...The original fix was to be in the form of **Prop. 3** on last November's ballot. But Prop. 3 lost by a **46%** vs. **54%** margin because neither major party in Calif. mounted an effective campaign to explain what was at stake. Enter Calif. SOS Bill Jones(R)...

...Jones' presidential primary fix is simple: ***code*** the ballots so that there will be two counts: the first will be the open primary presidential count (with cross-party voting permitted), but the second count would show how party members voted for president. According to RNC and DNC rules, only party members can vote to select delegates, thus the second count gets around Calif.'s open primary law problem. How does the double-count work? The 58 counties would reprogram their computers for the double-count. Cost of reprogramming is not known, but Jones says the State will pick up the tab...

...The legislative fix (SB 28) encompassing the Jones plan was introduced Dec. 7th by State Sen. Steve Peace(D-Chula Vista) and Assemblyman Jack Scott(D-Pasadena). Peace isn't exactly thrilled that neither party was willing to accommodate Calif.'s open primary rule (he called their attitude wrong and stupid), but felt that something needed to be done to prevent the State parties from closing down the open primary system. Without SB 28, Calif.'s open primary would be little more than a presidential beauty contest - with little clout and the real possibility that GOP & Demo delegates might not be recognized at the respective nominating conventions...

...FYI: Peace was an original sponsor of Prop. 198 (the Open Primary Initiative), along with now U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R) and former State Sen. Lucy Killea(I) of San Diego. As for Scott, he was the key opponent of Prop. 3 this past year. Stay tuned...

IMPEACHMENT OF CLINTON - CALIF. VIEWPOINT.

Editor's note: Here is **Part I** in a continuing series of reports & updates about the pending impeachment of President Bill Clinton(D). This is a very complex issue and thus **Calpeek** will stay away from the legal aspects and instead concentrate on the politics of impeachment, especially as it relates to Calif. Here's our update & analysis, Part I...

...Just days after the Nov. 3rd election, GOP House leader Newt Gingrich resigned his Speakership and gave CA Demo Party operative/spindoctor Bob Mulholland his best one-liner of '98: *Republicans were so hot to impeach, they impeached one of their own.* Looking back, Gingrich's departure was probably the worst thing that could have happened to Pres. Clinton. Both Demo, as well as GOP sources, have told **Calpeek** they think Gingrich had the political savvy to realize what was at stake --- and that he would have found a way to get around impeachment...

...What's at stake is control of the U.S. House in 2000. If the election were now, the GOP would be in ***deep trouble***, both nationwide and in Calif. Most all of the polls show the public is opposed to the impeachment of Pres. Clinton (**61%** to **66%** in various surveys). The public is also opposed to Pres. Clinton's resigning (**69%**). And just after the House approved 2 of 4 articles of impeachment, Pres. Clinton's job approval

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rating hit **72%**!!!

...But to political insiders, the most telling survey was a Dec. 19-20 poll by USA Today/CNN/Gallop. It shows the GOP with a **57%** unfavorable rating. True, the next election is two years away and much can happen, and voters sometimes have short memories. Nevertheless, Demo consultants see this new data as a sign that GOP House members may be *vulnerable*...

...Back to impeachment. Without Gingrich or a damaged ex-Speaker-elect Bob Livingston, there was a ***power vacuum*** in the GOP-controlled House. And into that vacuum stepped one of The President's most vocal enemies, House GOP Whip Tom DeLay of Texas. And it wasn't all that difficult for DeLay and his anti-Clinton allies to push the impeachment forward. And despite what some moderate GOPers may say, our sources insist that there was a good bit of arm twisting by DeLay --- but that's what a whip is supposed to do: round up votes and enforce party discipline...

...Why impeach if it could mean losing control in 2000? **Calpeek** sources, both Demo & GOP, say the same thing. To guys like DeLay and U.S. Rep. Bob Barr of GA, who are in safe GOP districts, it doesn't make any difference. Their *intense hatred* of Clinton has blinded them to political reality. And the reality is that the U.S. Senate, at this point, will **not** convict Pres. Clinton, thus the impeachment vote by the House (largely along party lines) may end up haunting the GOP in 2000. Next week: Calif. GOPers at risk. Stay tuned...

SPECIAL ELECTION IN 16th AD SET FOR FEB. 2ND.

Editor's note: Before leaving office, former CA Gov. Pete Wilson(R) set Feb. 2nd for a special election to fill the open ***16th AD*** seat left vacant by Don Perata's election to the CA State Senate. Here's our update and analysis, with a look back 27 years ago to another Assembly special election...

...Former Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris(D) and attorney & Alameda Co. Demo heavyweight Frank Russo are the two major players running for Perata's 16th AD seat, but there are two others in the race: Enrique Palacos(D) and Green Party candidate Elizabeth Bork. There is no GOP candidate. If a runoff is necessary, it will be held Mar. 30th...

...Both Russo and Harris are already in the mail and Russo's even got a phone bank up & running. In the *endorsement game*, both Perata and BOE member Johan Klehs(D) are firmly planted in Harris' corner, as are both U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. And so is Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, who endorsed Harris on Dec. 17th...

...But Russo has some pretty good endorsements too, including Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey and Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Shelley of San Francisco...

...And here's what's interesting. It's not often that an Assembly Speaker and Majority Leader are on opposing sides in a high profile special. Last time that happened was in **1971** when Ralph Ochoa, backed by Speaker Bob Moretti(D), was defeated in a special primary by Richard Alatorre, backed by his key supporter, Majority Leader Wally Karabian(D)...

...This was a special to replace then Assemblyman David Roberti(D), who had just won another special election to the State Senate. The primary was bitter and GOP candidate Bill Brophy won the runoff, but Alatorre eventually won the seat in 1972. Soon after the special Moretti *fired* Karabian and there was bad blood between them for some time. Will the same thing happen with Villaraigosa and Shelley??? Stay tuned...

PICKS & PANS: '98 SPINDUSTRIAL MEDIA AWARDS

Editor's note: **Calpeek** didn't get much of chance to present its awards to the ***news media*** and to the *spindustrial media complex* which plays such a critical role in covering Calif. politics. So here are our ***picks & pans*** for 1998 -- as well as other notes of interest...

♦ ***TV Coverage*** - There's no doubt that print and all-news & public radio does a much better job of covering politics than television. ***Worst TV Coverage*** was provided by the big 3 L.A. network owned-and-operated stations. They spent more money & time covering the election results on Nov. 3rd than they did covering the entire campaign from Labor Day to Nov. 2nd...

...***Best TV Coverage***: Sacto's KVIE (Calif. Capitol Week); L.A.'s KCET (Life & Times); and L.A.'s Century Cable TV. Honorable mention: KCAL-TV in L.A...

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♦ ***Best Political Website*** - Politicalaccess.com...

♦ ***Most Useless Website*** - FEC's website to provide info about contributions to federal candidates. By the time the info is made available, it's outdated...

♦ ***Political Stories With Clout*** - Awards for the stories which had the most political impact during *Campaign '98* go to: Phil Trounstine of the *San Jose Mercury News* for his primary story about Demo Al Checchi and Northwest Airlines; Eric Lichtblau of the *L.A. Times* for his primary story about GOP U.S. Senate candidate Darrell Issa (Issa's Rags-to-Riches Tale Has Some Ugly Chapters); and to Lance Williams of the *S.F. Examiner* for his Oct. 25th story about Matt Fong's $50,000 contribution to the Traditional Values Coalition...

♦ ***Best Political E-Mail*** - No contest here: GOP consultant Arnie Steinberg's e-mail may have bashed GOP candidate Lungren and the CRP, but the info was informative as well as accurate - and fun to read...

♦ ***Best Political Spin*** - On the GOP side, Dan Schnur is still a master, but so is Leslie Goodman, who is more plugged in nationally. On the Demo side, CDP operative Bob Mulholland has few peers, but Davis campaign mgr. Garry South comes close, as does savvy Demo consultants Bill Carrick and Gale Kaufman...

♦ ***In Passing*** - *Santa Monica Outlook* folded Mar. 14th after 123 years of publication...S.F. Chron political reporter Susan Yoachum, died in June after a long struggle with breast cancer. R.I.P. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S LEGAL FILE: **KATZ LAWSUIT THROWN OUT; THE MURRAYS GET FINED BY FPPC; PROP. 208.**
Editor's note: Over the last 3 weeks there have been a number of legal developments worth noting. Here's a brief summary...

◆ ***Katz Lawsuit Denied*** - Although former Demo Assembly Leader Richard Katz lost his first round in a defamation lawsuit against State Sen. Richard Polanco and Demo consultant Richie Ross, Katz says he **isn't** dropping his suit and will appeal. Katz sued Polanco and Ross over a hit mailer which many insiders thought went *over the line* in the 20th SD primary back in June. Katz lost to Richard Alarcon by 29 votes in a very bitter race. In these kinds of political lawsuits, trial courts often look more favorably at the 1st amendment issues which tend to help defendants...

◆ ***The Murrays Hit by FPPC*** - Former Assemblyman Willard Murray and his son, new State Sen. Kevin Murray(D) - as well as the United Democratic Campaign Cmt., were hit with FPPC fines totalling $60,250. In two separate cases, Willard, Kevin and the UDCC were fined $38,000 for 25 violations; and Kevin and his Friends of Kevin Murray Cmt. were hit with 17 violations for another $22,250...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Jan. 4	Gray Davis and other CA Constitutional officers sworn in. Legislature reconvenes.
Jan. 10	State Budget released.
Jan. 13	First day to file Declarations of Intent to become an L.A. City Council candidate.
Jan. 14-16	AAPC annual meeting, ANA Hotel, Wash. DC.
Jan. 19	State of the Union address, Wash. DC.
Jan. 23	DNC Executive Cmt. meeting, Wash. DC.

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.
Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***White House 2000*** - U.S. Sen. John McCain(R-AZ) was in L.A. over the holidays, pressing the flesh with political insiders at the annual Wheelspinners Party at the Biltmore Hotel. He told **Calpeek** he was running for President in 2000. No shock...

■ ***L.A. Charter Reform*** - Both the Appointed and Elected L.A. Charter Reform Commissions will get a chance to vote on a *unified charter* during the first week of the new year. If the unified charter is OKed by both groups (and that remains up in the air - according to **Calpeek** sources), the complex package would be presented to voters in June (very dumb). The unified charter plan (as it now stands) includes advisory neighborhood councils and area planning commissions and gives the mayor *limited authority* to fire city department heads. Mayor Riordan won't be a happy camper if this plank remains as is. And **Calpeek** sources think the whole question of whether voters will even approve charter reform is very IFFY, especially if Riordan decides to oppose it...

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■ ***CRP Warfare Update*** - The intra-party battle between Tirso del Junco & Shawn Steel for Vice Chair of the CRP is becoming fairly one-sided, with Steel way out in front in terms of key support. Most of the Lincoln Clubs and the CRA are now behind Steel. Past CRP chairs backing Steel include Mike Antonovich, Bob Naylor, Truman Campbell and Mike Montgomery. In addition, sources confirm that Sacto-based Gilliard, Blanning & Assoc. are no longer assisting del Junco with his campaign against Steel...

■ ***Villaraigosa's Team*** - Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa(D) has named Fred Keeley as *speaker pro tem*; and Tony Cardenas as caucus chair. Keeley was caucus chair in the last session, but moved to SPT when Sheila Kuehl asked for a committee chairmanship. Kevin Shelley remains as Majority Leader. Other key players on Villaraigosa's team include Bob Hertzberg as Rules Cmt. chair; Carole Migden as Appropriations Cmt. chair; and Denise Moreno Ducheny as Budget Cmt. chair...

■ ***Full Metal Jacket*** - The upscale city of West Hollywood is the big winner in its ongoing war with the CA Rifle & Pistol Assn. over the city's 3-year-old law banning the sale of *Saturday Night Special* cheap handguns. The CA Supreme Court refused to consider an appeal courts ruling upholding the gun ban. While gun-ban author and WeHo Councilman Paul Koretz is very pleased, the legal bill has cost West Hollywood about $250,000 -- a very high price for *political correctness*. PS: where are all those anti-gun groups who said they would help out financially???

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES. Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We have a huge backlog of these annoucements...

● A sad note: former State Sen. Milton Marks(D) of S.F. died Dec. 4 of heart failure. He was 78. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: prominent Peninsula GOP & Lincoln Club mover & shaker Tom Ford died Dec. 7. He was a developer and philanthropist. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: former State Sen. James Q. Wedworth(D-Hawthorne) died Dec. 21 in Newcastle. He was 79. R.I.P...

● That's Doctor Karen Spencer, as in PhD from USC in Public Administration. Congrats, Karen...

● 1,500 persons attended a Dec. 6 retirement dinner in S.F. for AIPAC regional director Naomi Lauter, who stepped down after 16 years. But don't worry, Naomi is staying on as a national community consultant. Elliot Brandt is the new regional director for AIPAC in S.F...

● Joel R. Maliniak will celebrate his 1st anniversary as Sr. VP/creative director with the political consulting firm of Goddard/Claussen in L.A. in March...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **National pro-Israel** grassroots lobby seeks Political Director/Asst. Director for its L.A. based regional office. Political outreach and development skills required. Excellent benefits. Salary based on experience. Fax resume in confidence to Director (323)937-8949...

● **Director of Communications** for a statewide labor organization. Responsible for developing and managing a comprehensive internal and external communications/public relations program. Desirable experience or knowledge will include: legislative process and public policy, fire and emergency media services. Resume and salary history to California Professional Firefighters, 1780 Creekside Oaks, Sacramento, CA 95833...

● **Lobbying/association management** firm hiring Director of Member Services for statewide association of public transit agencies. Responsible for: conference, event planning; managing, editing monthly magazine; supporting political program; operating information clearinghouse. Salary starts low-mid $30K (DOQ). Health plan & pension. Provide resume by Jan. 8, 1999: 1400 "K" St., Ste. 301, Sacramento, CA 95814. For information, contact Josh Shaw: (916)446-4656 / jshaw@gsy.org...

● **Political reporting paralegal**/technician for Wilke, Fleury law firm. Min. 2 yrs. experience with Political Reform Act, its reporting obligations and requirements. Familiarity with PAC, lobbyist, candidate, and major donor reports, and aduits of same, helpful. Salary commensurate w/experience. Fax resumes to (916)442-6664...

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